UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

~~A/49/842~~
S/1995/95
31 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda items 38, 40 and 79
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS
IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

# Letter dated 31 January 1995 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed to bring the following to your attention.

Pursuant to my letter to you dated 9 January 1995, on the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967, including Jerusalem, I would like to refer to the decision announced by the Israeli Cabinet Committee on this subject. After a period of unclear and confusing statements by high-level Israeli officials, the Cabinet Committee decided, on 24 January 1995, to approve the following:

(a) The building of 1,080 housing units in the Maale Adumim settlement, east of Jerusalem;

(b) The sale of 797 housing units in Maale Adumim to Israelis;

(c) The building of 900 housing units in the Bitar settlement, south of Jerusalem;

(d) The sale of 1,026 housing units in the Bitar settlement to Israelis;

(e) The building of 340 housing units in Givat Zeev, north of Jerusalem;

(f) The building of 50 housing units in Jordan valley settlements.

It should be noted that the Israeli decision comes at a time when the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles of 13 September 1993 (A/48/486-S/26560) has been delayed for six months, including the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside populated areas in the West Bank and the election of the Palestinian Council. This decision clearly further undermines the current peace process and exacerbates the already fragile, tense and dangerous atmosphere in the occupied territory.

It is well known that the Israeli settlements are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which is applicable to all the occupied territory since 1967, including Jerusalem. The Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed this fact in several resolutions. Moreover, settlements are a very serious obstacle to peace, and the continuity of settlement activity violates the letter and spirit of the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and threatens the integrity of the peace process at this critical stage.

Based on the above, we believe that it is imperative for the Security Council to take quick and concrete action to bring an effective end to all settlement activities by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. Such a step would have a positive impact on the situation on the ground and would be a necessary and important contribution to the smooth progress and success of the peace process.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 40 and 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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